

SUNDAY.

1 Cha. I., c. 1.

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AN ACT for punishing of divers Abuses committed on the Lord's
Day, called Sunday.

FORASMUCH as there is nothing more acceptable to God than
the true and sincere service and worship of Him according to His

holy will, and that the holy keeping of the Lord's Day is a principal part of the true service of God, which in very many places of this realm hath been and now is profaned and neglected by a disorderly sort of people in exercising and frequenting bear-baiting, bull-baiting, interludes, common plays, and other unlawful exercises and pastimes upon the Lord's Day; and for that many quarrels, bloodsheds, and other great inconveniences have grown by the resort and concourse of people going out of their own parishes to such disordered and unlawful exercises and pastimes, neglecting divine service both in their own parishes and elsewhere:

Unlawful meetings and pastimes on the Lord's Day forbidden.

There shall be no meetings, assemblies, or concourse of people out of their own parishes on the Lord's Day, within this realm of England or any the dominions thereof, for any sports or pastimes whatsoever; nor any bear-baiting, bull-baiting, interludes, common plays, or other unlawful exercises or pastimes, used by any person or persons within their own parishes.

Every person using any unlawful pastimes on the Lord's Day shall forfeit 3s. 4d. to the poor of the parish.

Every person or persons offending in any the premises shall forfeit for every offence three shillings fourpence, the same to be employed and converted to the use of the poor of the parish where such offence shall be committed.

After conviction by warrant from a Justice, &c., the constables, &c., may levy the penalty, &c.

Any one Justice of the Peace of the county, or the chief officer or officers of any city, borough, or town corporate, where such offence shall be committed, upon his or their view, or confession of the party, or proof of any one or more witness by oath, which the said Justice or chief officer or officers shall by virtue of this Act have authority to minister, shall find any person offending in the premises, the said Justice or chief officer or officers shall give warrant, under his or their hand and seal, to the constables or churchwardens of the parish or parishes where such offence shall be committed, to levy the said penalty so to be assessed, by way of distress and sale of the goods of every such offender, rendering to the said offenders the overplus of the money raised of the said goods so to be sold; and in default of such distress the party offending be set publicly in the stocks by the space of three hours.

General issue.

If any man be sued or impeached for execution of this law he shall and may plead the general issue and give the said matter of justification in evidence:

Limitation of the action.

Provided that no man be impeached by this Act except he be called in question within one month next after the said offence committed,